

Re: Summary of 2/4 EPA/NRCS Meeting on Chesapeake Bay

Swenson, Richard - Beltsville, MD to: Lawrence Elworth

02/12/2010 04:03 PM

Cc: Kelly Shenk, Chuck Fox, "Christensen, Thomas - Washington, DC",
"Jordan, Leonard - Washington, DC"

History:

Larry:

Talked to Kelly then to Tom Christensen who is in charge of the agenda. I think we're squared away. The agenda item will be 319 and NRCS Conservation Programs. We'll need to know from you as soon as possible who is making the presentation so they can be appropriately shown on the agenda.

Next week I will talk to Leonard Jordan about the possibility of having a separate meeting with the Chesapeake Bay STC's on the TMDL process.

Rick

----- Original Message -----

From: Elworth.Lawrence@epamail.epa.gov <Elworth.Lawrence@epamail.epa.gov>

To: Swenson, Richard - Beltsville, MD

Cc: Shenk.Kelly@epamail.epa.gov <Shenk.Kelly@epamail.epa.gov>;

Fox.Chuck@epamail.epa.gov <Fox.Chuck@epamail.epa.gov>

Sent: Fri Feb 12 15:06:34 2010

Subject: Fw: Summary of 2/4 EPA/NRCS Meeting on Chesapeake Bay

Please see the e-mail below - Kelly will follow up

Lawrence Elworth
Agricultural Counselor to the Administrator
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
2415 Ariel Rios North
202 564-1530

----- Forwarded by Lawrence Elworth/DC/USEPA/US on 02/12/2010 03:03 PM

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|Lawrence Elworth/DC/USEPA/US

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| To: |
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|ann.mills@osec.usda.gov, Dave.White@wdc.usda.gov

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| Cc: |
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| Chuck Fox/CBP/USEPA/US@EPA, Kelly Shenk/CBP/USEPA/US@EPA,
robert.bonnie@osec.usda.gov |
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02/11/2010 05:07 PM

| Fw: Summary of 2/4 EPA/NRCS Meeting on Chesapeake Bay

Dave and Ann - I want to make sure you have seen the summary (below) of our first meeting with your staff on the Bay modelling issue - it was a very productive meeting and we look forward to working with your folks. I also want to draw your attention to a some specific things that came up in our discussions:

1) We discussed making a presentation at the National Leadership Meeting on how EPA's 319 program works and how it might complement watershed efforts. That would be a particularly useful thing to do and we will be glad to work with you to schedule that presentation which would be of value to all the state cons not just the Bay people.

2) Specifically on the Bay, it has come up in our discussions more than once that it would be very helpful to have a meeting among the Bay state cons and the Ag and Environment departments in those states to discuss the intersection of state plans under the TMDL with NRCS programmatic resources. We would be pleased to facilitate that meeting and it might make sense to try to hold it when the state cons and perhaps others are convened at the leadership meeting. If that is not the best option, we should work to schedule that discussion no later than the end of March.

3) Finally, given the high level of public interest in the whole Bay modelling issue, we need to figure out how we communicate our joint

review of the model and our efforts to improve its effectiveness.

I look forward to hearing from you to follow up on those three points
and I am, of course, interested in any comments you have on the summary.
Regards, Larry

Lawrence Elworth
Agricultural Counselor to the Administrator
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2415 Ariel Rios North
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----- Forwarded by Lawrence Elworth/DC/USEPA/US on 02/11/2010 04:39 PM

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|Kelly Shenk/CBP/USEPA/US
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|Lawrence Elworth/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
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|02/11/2010 04:18 PM
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|Summary of 2/4 EPA/NRCS Meeting on Chesapeake Bay
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Hi Larry, here is a quick summary of our meeting with Rick Swenson et al., on the Chesapeake Bay model, CEAP, and TMDL. I thought the meeting was very productive with some solid action items that will move us forward on all three issues discussed. Thanks for making the trip over to USDA to join us. Talk to you soon! K

P.S. I attached a word file of this summary in case the formatting didn't translate over email. K

Participants:

Larry Elworth, Ag Counselor to Administrator, EPA
Kelly Shenk, Ag Policy Coordinator, EPA CBPO
Roberta Parry, EPA Headquarters, very experienced with NRCS CEAP work.
Rick Swenson, Special Assistant, Strategic Natural Resources Initiatives, NRCS
Glenn Carpenter, National Leader, Animal Husbandry, NRCS (Beltsville) (will be NRCS point of contact for all discussions on CB Watershed Model)
Doug Lawrence, Deputy Chief, Soil Survey and Resource Assessment,
Daryl Lund, NRCS, Branch Chief, Resources Inventory and Assessment Division, NRCS
Jay Atwood, NRCS, Resources Inventory and Assessment Division, NRCS, Economist
Lee Norfleet, NRCS, Resources Inventory and Assessment Division, Soil Scientist
Bob Kellogg (invited, not sure if he was on call), NRCS, CEAP National Assessment, Cropland

Issues Addressed:

1. Agricultural Industry Concerns and Questions about Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model:
NRCS discussed the ag community's uncertainty about the CB Watershed Model.

Action/Decision:

Over the next three months, Glenn Carpenter, NRCS, will meet with CB Watershed Modelers to review model, data, and assumptions and provide any feedback.

NRCS will work with ag constituency to communicate model and address concerns.

2. EPA Concerns about Lack of Coordination with NRCS on Chesapeake CEAP:

EPA expressed the need for transparency and coordination with NRCS on Chesapeake Conservation Effectiveness Assessment Project (CEAP) that is underway in the watershed.

Action/Decision:

NRCS CEAP modelers will meet with EPA and the CB Watershed Modelers to discuss Chesapeake CEAP project, preliminary results, and coordinate communications messages (Key EPA Leads will be Roberta Parry, EPA Headquarters and Gary Shenk, EPA CBPO)

o Mid-March: NRCS will provide summary of similar Upper Mississippi River CEAP project and results. NRCS will provide detailed project description for Chesapeake CEAP including methodology, data used, models used, etc.

o Early to mid-April - share preliminary results, compare with Bay Watershed Model findings, if there are differences explain why we see differences, and develop communication strategy.

3. USDA Role in TMDL:

Given USDA's interest in supporting the states in meeting the state Bay TMDL Watershed Implementation Plans and 2-year milestones, EPA suggested they give a full TMDL briefing to USDA/NRCS.

Actions/Decisions:

NRCS is exploring the possibility of holding a TMDL briefing in late February at the USDA National Leadership Team meeting.

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